

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 IO-03

DPW-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-10 DODE-00

EUR-10 NEA-06 RSR-01 /085 W  
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R 240930Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6381

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15335

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP MR 4 AUG 24, 1973

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO ON AUG 24 ACTION EMBASSY  
SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USAAG NKP REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0675

LIMDIS

1. SUMMARY: MR IV REPORTED A HIGH NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, BUT  
LOW CASUALTIES, AUGUST 23. VC AND RF CLASHED IN SEVERAL  
PHONG DINH INCIDENTS. VC SNIPERS WOUNDED A CIVILIAN ON ROUTE 4  
IN VINH LONG. A MINE EXPLODED IN THE CA MAU POLICE HEADQUARTERS.  
A WHITE ELEPHANT FORAGES AMONG THE HOA HAO. VINH LONG VC URGE  
THE ASSASSINATION OF LOCAL GVN OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES WERE  
REPORTED IN 44 INCIDENTS ACROSS THE DELTA AUGUST 23. GVN  
FORCES LOST SEVEN KILLED AND 70 WOUNDED. THREE PSDF DIED AND 14  
OTHER CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED. ACCORDING TO MR IV SOURCES, 44  
NVA/VC WERE KILLED AND ONE SUSPECT CAPTURED. DINH TUONG REPORTED  
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18 ICIDENTS, CONCENTRATED IN SAM GIANG AND CAI LAY DISTRICTS.

MINOR HARRASSMENTS AND MORTARINGS, INFLECTING NO CASUALTIES, MADE UP MOST OF THE ICDETS, ALTHOUGH A CAI LAY BOOBY TRAP TOOK THE LIVES OF THREE RF SOLDIERS.

(B) THE VC ATTACKED AND ROUTED A PHONG DINH RF COMPANY DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 23 IN MY CHANH HAMLET, HOA MY VILLAGE, PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT. SOLDIERS OF THE SECOND COMPANY, 480 RF BATTALION, OPERATING ON THE CHUONG THIEN BORDER, WERE SURPRISED IN THEIR SLEEP. THE RF SUFFERED NINE KILLED, NINE WOUNDED, FIVE MISSING, AND THE LOSS OF SEVERAL WEAPONS, INCLUDING A 60 MM MORTAR. ELSEWHERE IN PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT, ON AUGUST 22, ELEMENTS OF THE 429 AND 479 RF BATTALIONS CLAIMED 18 VC KILLED IN TWO SEPARATE CLASHES.

(C) ONE CIVILIAN WAS WOUNDED ABOUT 2100 HOURS AUGUST 21 WHEN THE VC SNIPED AT AN AUTOMOBILE ON ROUTE 4 MIDWAY BETWEEN VINH LONG CITY AND CAN THO. TUESDAY'S INCIDENT WAS THE SECOND THIS MONTH OF SNIPING AT ROUTE 4 TRAFFIC AT THE SAME SPOT; ON AUGUST 5 A CIVILIAN WAS KILLED WHEN HIS CAR WAS FIRED UPON. A MINOR NVA/VC LIAISON ROUTE CONNECTING SOUTHERN SA DEC AND SOUTHERN VINH LONG CROSSES THE HIGHWAY AT THIS POINT.

(D) AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE DETONATED INSIDE THE CA MAU POLICE COMPOUND DURING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 23. NO ONE WAS INJURED BUT A WOMAN SECRETARY DIED OF A CORONARY ATTACK. IT WAS THE SECOND ATTACK ON POLICE HEADQUARTERS THIS MONTH; ON AUGUST 3 THE COMPOUND WAS HIT BY 79 FIRE FROM A SUPPOSEDLY SECURE HAMLET ACROSS THE RIVER (CAN THO 0633). THE EMBARRASSED POLICE ORDERED THE INCIDENT NOT REPORTED, AND IT WAS DULY EXCLUDED FROM THE TOC LOG.

3. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: VINH LONG. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CEASEFIRE II THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE VINH LONG VC ARE TRYING TO SET UP TERRORISM AGAINST GVN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. RD CADRE IN MINH DUC DISTRICT REPORTED THAT THE VC HELD A "PEOPLE'S MEETING" AUGUST 7 IN BINH PHUOC VILLAGE AND URGED THE ASSASSINATION OF GVN OFFICIALS. SEVERAL RF RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON LEADERS WERE NAMED AS "CRUEL TYRANTS AND PERSECUTORS OF THE PEOPLE." CONFIDENTIAL

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THE VC HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY INFILTRATING INTO RELATIVELY SECURE MINH DUC, AND THEY MAY REASON THAT ASSASSINATION OF KEY GVN LEADERS WOULD EASE THEIR PASSAGE. NO ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN REPORTED SINCE THE AUGUST 7 RALLY.

4. GVN ACTIVITIES: WHITE ELEPHANT HEAD TRAN VAN LAM VISITED HOA HAO VILLAGE WITHIN THE LAST WEEK SEEKING SUPPORT FOR HIS SENATORIAL ASPIRATIONS. HE CALLED ON HOA HAO RELIGIOUS

FACTION LEADER LUONG TRONG TUONG.  
LEHMANN  
MARTIN

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NNN

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